

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR
RECONSIDERATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated February 4, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 17-40 as follows:

17. (New) A type I polyketide synthase which comprises a loading module and a plurality of extension modules, wherein said loading module is adapted to load an optionally substituted malonyl and then to effect decarboxylation of the loaded residue to provide a corresponding optionally substituted acetyl residue for transfer to the first of said extension modules, and wherein at least said first extension module is not naturally associated with a loading module that effects decarboxylation; with the proviso that the target polyketide is not a 14-membered macrolide having a 13methyl group due to incorporation of an (unsubstituted) acetate starter unit.

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